NUMB. XXXI.

The GRUMBLER.

By Squire GIZZARD.

Quem quæritis, adſum. Virg.

From *Friday* July 1. to *Tueſday* July 5. 1715.

BY this Time I am perſwaded a great Number of my Countrymen, will have peruſed my *Abſtract of the Report from the Secret Committee*, in my two laſt Papers. I muſt therefore do my ſelf the Juſtice to aſſure them, by this firſt Opportunity, that I have been very ſcrupulous in that Performance, and have finiſhed the Whole with the greateſt Exactneſs and Impartiallity; ſo as to give every Subject (who may not have leiſure to read over the Report itſelf) the Subſtance of the Matters contained in that Book, which by Order of the *Commons of Great-Britain* was made publick for the Information of the whole Kingdom.

Having thus gratified the Curioſity of myReaders in the great Affair, which now lies before the Parliament, I return to my private Correſpondents, who I fear, begin to think themſelves too long neglected. There are ſome of them, whom I ſhould not be ſorry to diſoblige; and theſe are a new Set of *Grumblers* of my own Creating. They frequently tell me in a ſurly Manner, that they have from time to time honoured me with their Letters and Compoſitions: And I frankly own, I have hitherto had the good Manners to take no Notice of them.

It were an endleſs Task to repeat the ſeveral terrible Menaces, which I receive every Week from theſe diſappointed Gentlemen. A pert Author, in the Confines of *Covent Garden*, commands me forthwith to inſert his Copy of Verſes, upon Pain of being for ever baniſhed from the Common-wealth of Wit. Another aſſures me, that I have for a long Time overlooked a Correſpondent, who has more Senſe in his little Finger than I have in my whole *Gizzard*. A young *Temple* Beau, who laſt Week ſent me a whole Sheet full of immodeſt and inſipid Raillery, is amazed to find, that I have not as yet diverted the Town with it. An honeſt well meaning Lawyer, from the ſame Quarter, ſends me an angry Letter, in which he complains of my not having printed his Opinion concerning Treaſons, which is nothing but a Paraphraſe upon what my Brother *Lionel* has ſo clearly expreſſed. Laſt of all, there is a Town Pedant, who in every Letter ſince his firſt reſents my not taking Notice of his former; let me deſire him in the next he Writes to be freer of his *Engliſh*, and more ſparing of his *Latin*; and perhaps he may meet with better Succeſs.

This it is to be in a publick Station; however I will never betray my Truſt through Puſillanimity; but rather chooſe to bear the Clamours of thoſe Paper Dunns myſelf, than forfeit my Character, by turning them over upon my Readers. Nevertheleſs, to eaſe myſelf as much as poſſible from the Importunity of ſuch like Solicitations, I think it proper to declare once for all, that I ſhall henceforward turn my deaf Ear, to thoſe who *grumble* without Wit or Senſe. Purſuant to this Reſolution, amongſt the Letters which now lie before me, I find but Two, worthy of a Place in my Paper. The firſt is from a Philoſopher, who, to ſhew his profound Knowledge in the moſt abſtruſe Subjects, has Written copiouſly of himſelf in ſeveral diminutive Tracts by Way of Advertiſements.

June 25, 1715.

SIR,

'I Have read and ſeriouſly conſidered the Letter of the Learned SALAMANCA 'DOCTOR in your *Grumbler* of the fourteenth Inſtant: And hope you will, for the Benefit of the Publick, communicate to him, ſome 'material Objections, which, with all imaginable 'Candour, I offer to his Project about ſettling the 'Longitude.

'Your ingenious Friend *Peter Problem*, after 'having given an Account of the ſeveral Methods 'already invented, in Order to fix the Meaſure of

95

' of Time at Sea, (which I agree is the only Thing ' wanting to eſtabliſh the Longitude) ſubjoins an ' Expedient of his own, as Infallible.

' *Take*, ſays he, *a Little Board of Box or Ebony* ' *finely poliſhed; let it be two Foot long and five In-* ' *ches broad; at an Inch diſtance from each End of the* ' *Board fix an Ivory Peg, of an Inch high, and of the* ' *thickneſs of a Gooſe-Quill. For diſtinction ſake, we* ' *will call the one Peg* A, *and the other Peg* B. *The* ' *Obſerver of the Longitude, ſitting ſedately in his Chair,* ' *with this Board lying before him upon a Table, ſhall* ' *take out of a Box, provided for that Purpoſe, a black* ' *Snail of three Inches long; let him place this Animal,* ' *with one Hand at Peg* A; *in his other Hand let him* ' *hold a Lettice-leaf, at a due diſtance from the Snail's* ' *Mouth, ſo as not to touch his Horns. Thus with* ' *his Hand he muſt entice the Reptile, after the Let-* ' *tice round Peg* B, *back again to Peg* A, *and ſo on.* ' *Now from often repeated Experiments, I find the* ' *Time, in which a black Snail, of the aforeſaid Di-* ' *mentions, tempted by a Lettice-leaf, will creep from* ' *Peg* A, *round Peg* B, *back again to Peg* A, *to be ele-* ' *ven Minutes, nine Seconds and a half. Thus Time* ' *may be preciſely known at Sea, and the Longitude* ' *thereby determined*, &c.

' Firſt then, I affirm, that the poliſhed Board, ' on which the Snail ſhall make his firſt Courſe ' in eleven Minutes, nine Seconds and a Half, ' will after two Rounds performed, become ſo ' glutinous, that the third Time the ſame Snail ' ſhall be eleven Minutes, ten Seconds and three ' Quarters in his Journey.

' Secondly, theſe Reptiles, as ſome curious Na- ' turaliſts have obſerved, are liable to be Seaſick; ' and then, their Appetites failing, they will not ' move a Step after a Lettice, although it were ' *Roman*, or *Sileſia*.

' Thirdly, of all Herbs Lettice is the moſt fa- ' ding, and in a Ship will ſoon Wither and Decay, ' ſo as to become unſavory Provender for Snails. ' But to this, I confeſs, it may be anſwered, that ' a freſh Supply may be procured by carrying Soil ' and Seed to Sea.

Fourthly, from the Preſſure of the Atmoſphere, ' Snails creep differently at the Time of a Full ' and of a New Moon.

' Laſtly, it is evident, that all Timber of what ' Kind ſoever, will ſhrink or extend itſelf, accor- ' ding to the Variation of the Wind and Weather, ' ſo as to make the difference of a Straw's breadth ' at leaſt in the aforeſaid Dimentions of the Snail's ' Progreſs.

' Theſe, Sir, are the main Objections I have to ' make to Mr. *Problem*'s new Scheme; and I am ' ready to enter into a Conference with him up- ' on the ſame, when he ſhall deſire farther Satiſ- ' faction from

SIR, *Yours and His Humble Servant*,
Alexander Cairnes.

Having diſpatched this Philoſopher, the next Call upon me is from a Virgin, as follows.

Saturday, June 25.

SIR,

' I Am the Daughter of a Citizen; and my Fa- ' ther is your conſtant Reader. On *Tueſday* laſt, ' he read to me, with abundance of Satisfaction, ' your Paper for the Day, in which you are pleaſed to ' couple Tea with Scandal and Coffee with Wiſ- ' dom. Then in a grave Manner, he told me, ' that I muſt drink Coffee with him every Mor- ' ning for the future. I complied with his Com- ' mands, when the third Morning your *Black Broth* ' threw me into ſuch a violent Fit of the Vapours, ' that, though I had promiſed a Viſit to a Perſon ' I doat upon, I was not in a Condition to per- ' form it. The Day following, at the uſual ' Breakfaſt Hour, my Father ſent for me into ' the Parlour; as ſoon as I came down Stairs, ' the Pot of Wiſdom was ſet before me; and I ' began to tremble at the very Sight of it. I am ' ſure I am bound to curſe the Hour when this ' unlucky Thought, of preſcribing to your Rea- ' ders, firſt came into your Head. If you will ' believe me, my Skin has already viſibly loſt its ' Luſtre, and my Hand ſhakes to ſuch a Degree, ' that I queſtion, whether a whole Months drink- ' ing of Tea, will ſettle my Nerves, or ſix Gal- ' lypots of cold Cream fetch my Complexion a- ' gain.

' Good Sir, let me intreat you, to be ſpeedy in ' redreſſing the Grievances, you have brought up- ' on me; and never let it be ſaid, that your Wit ' has proved the Ruin of an innocent Virgin. ' Upon this Condition I promiſe to be

Your conſtant Reader and obſequious Servant,

Patty Plumb.

I have taken the Caſe of pretty Miſs *Patty* into my Conſideration and muſt deſire her Father to allow her the Uſe of *Sage Tea* with the *Grumbler*, as the moſt proper Liquor to ſupply the Place of Coffee; and at the ſame Time beg leave to inform him, that Wiſdom does not agree with all Conſtitutions alike.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Juſt publiſh'd,
In the *Grumblers*, No. xxix. and xxx. a compleat ABSTRACT of the REPORT from the Committee of Secrecy, Price Six-Pence, in three Sheets, Folio: Very convenient to be ſent by the Poſt into the Country. Sold by *R. Burleigh* in *Amen-Corner*; *J. Graves* in St. *James's Street*; *A. Boulter* without *Temple-bar*; and *J. Harriſon* at the *Royal Exchange*.

LONDON: *Printed by* W. WILKINS, *at the* Dolphin *in* Little-Britain; *and Sold by* R. BURLEIGH, *in* Amen-Corner.; J. GRAVES *in St.* James's Street; A. BOULTER *without* Temple-bar; *and* J. HARRISON *at the* Royal Exchange.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA